

October 2, 2009

Washington State Building Code Council

128 10th Avenue SW

Post Office Box 42525

Olympia, Washington 98504-2525

Dear Residential Fire Sprinkler Technical Advisory Group,

Thank you for your service to our State on the State Building Code Council. As a member of the fire service, I am particularly interested in making sure our citizens are as safe as possible. That is why I hope you will support an effort to require the use of automatic fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings in our city.

Nearly 400,000 home fires occur every year in this country. In one recent year, almost 3,000 people died in home fires. However, when fires break out in homes with sprinklers, residents are protected and the fire is kept under control until firefighters arrive on the scene. Home fire sprinklers are a cost effective proven technology that saves lives and protects property.

Model safety codes now require the use of fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes. These requirements offer the highest level of safety to protect our citizens. Home fire sprinkler systems respond quickly to reduce the heat, flames, and smoke from a fire—offering residents valuable time to get to safety and protection to firefighters from major structural failures like collapsing beams and floorboards.

For the sake of our citizens and members of the fire service, I hope that the State Building Code Council will soon join the list of areas that mandate automatic fire sprinkler systems in new home construction. Our lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Ingham  
Fire Commissioner  
King County Fire District #28